

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 31 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as shown in the listing below.

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A data storage system comprising:

a first volume having a first storage volume characteristic;

a second volume having a second storage volume characteristic; and

a computing node coupled to said first volume and said second volume, wherein
said computing node includes a file system for identifying a first file
stored on said first volume and a second file stored on said second
volume;

wherein said file system includes a directory structure having a directory which
includes a first entry corresponding to said first file and a second entry
corresponding to said second file;

wherein in response to a request by a client to access said first file, said
computing node provides metadata corresponding to said first file to said
client; and

wherein said client uses said metadata corresponding to said first file to perform a
subsequent access to said first file.

22. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said file system is configured to allocate space on said first volume in response to receiving a request specifying said first storage volume characteristic and said second volume in response to receiving a request specifying said second storage volume characteristic from a software application.

23. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 22, wherein one of said first volume and said second volume comprises a single storage device.

24. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 22, wherein one of said first volume and said second volume comprises a multiple storage device system.

25. (Original) The system as recited in claim 24, wherein said multiple storage device system is a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) storage system.

26. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

storing a first file on a first volume having a first storage volume characteristic based on a first set of storage characteristics desired for said first file, ~~wherein said first file is located in a directory of a directory structure maintained by a file system;~~ and

storing metadata corresponding to said first file in a first entry of a directory structure maintained by a file system;

storing a second file on a second volume having a second storage volume characteristic based on a second set of storage characteristics desired for said second file, ~~wherein said second file is located in said directory;~~

storing metadata corresponding to said second file in a second entry of said directory structure;

providing said metadata corresponding to said first file to a client in response to a request by said client to access said first file; and

said client using said metadata corresponding to said first file to perform a subsequent access to said first file.

27. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said method further comprises allocating space on said first volume in response to receiving a request specifying said first storage volume characteristic and said second volume in response to receiving a request specifying said second storage volume characteristic from a software application.

28. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein one of said first volume and said second volume comprises a single storage device.

29. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein said first volume and said second volume are each a logical volume, wherein at least one of said logical volumes comprises a multiple storage device system.

30. (Original) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein said multiple storage device system is a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) storage system.

Claims 31-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim [20] 21, wherein said first and said second entry each includes another field containing an index number associated with identifying metadata corresponding to said first and said second file respectively.

35. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 34, wherein said first volume and said second volume each specify a set of methods for manipulating said metadata and for allocating data blocks.

Claims 36-37. (Canceled)

38. (New) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said first entry and said second entry each include a field containing a volume identifier indicative of which of said first or said second volumes said corresponding file is stored within.

cl 39. (New) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said first entry and said second entry each include a field containing a volume identifier indicative of which of said first or said second volumes said corresponding file is stored within.

40. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions for operating a file system which identifies files stored by a first volume and a second volume, wherein said instructions are executable by a computing node to implement a method comprising:

storing a first file on a first volume having a first storage volume characteristic based on a first set of storage characteristics desired for said first file, ~~wherein said first file is located in a directory of a directory structure maintained by a file system;~~ and

storing metadata corresponding to said first file in a first entry of a directory structure maintained by a file system;

storing a second file on a second volume having a second storage volume characteristic based on a second set of storage characteristics desired for said second file, ~~wherein said second file is located in said directory;~~

storing metadata corresponding to said second file in a second entry of said directory structure;

providing said metadata corresponding to said first file to a client in response to a request by said client to access said first file; and

said client using said metadata corresponding to said first file to perform a subsequent access to said first file.

41. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 40, wherein said method further comprises allocating space on said first volume in response to receiving a request specifying said first storage volume characteristic and said second volume in response to receiving a request specifying said second storage volume characteristic from a software application.

42. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 40, wherein said first entry and said second entry each include a field containing a volume identifier indicative of which of said first or said second volumes said corresponding file is stored within.

[42] 43. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein one of said first volume and said second volume comprises a single storage device.

[43] 44. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein one of said first volume and said second volume comprises a multiple storage device system.

[44] 45. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 43, wherein said multiple storage device system is a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) storage system.